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WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE

Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

1903.



WALTON-ON-NAZE:

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1904.



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Walton-on-the-Naze = =

= *Urban District Council.*



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S OFFICE,
COLCHESTER,

14th January, 1904.

To the Walton-on-the-Naze Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In presenting to your Council my report for the past year, 1903, it gives me pleasure to be able to congratulate you on the healthy state of your district, both as regards a low death-rate, and the general absence of infectious sickness during the year.

Your district consists of only one parish, having an area of 2051 acres, besides the portion covered by water, and the foreshore. The census taken in April 1901, showed your population to be 2015 persons living in 443 houses, and the decennial increment was 428. The estimated population to the middle of 1903 is 2061.

The number of deaths which took place in the district during the year was 23, giving a death-rate in the above stated estimated population of 11·15 per 1000; but, deducting the deaths of two persons who did not belong to the district, and adding the deaths of four of the inhabitants who died in the Union Workhouse, the corrected death-rate comes out at 12·13 per 1000. This death-rate is a very low one, although not quite so low as the last year's one. The Infantile death-rate, meaning the deaths under the age of one year, is also low, being 55·55 per 1000 children born. It may be stated here that this rate is very much lower than that of last year, and as there was only one premature birth, this could not have much effect.

The deaths took place at the understated ages :—

At all ages	Under 1 year	1—5.	5—15.	15—25.	25—65	65 and above.
23.	3.	1.	2.	2.	11.	4.

The greatest age attained was 93.

Deducting the deaths under one year and those over 65, the death-rate is 7·76 per 1000 of the estimated population.

During the year 54 births were registered, being 21 boys, and 33 girls, giving a death-rate of 26·20 of the estimated population.

Infectious Sickness.—This has indeed been very little; the total cases notified being only 6. Of these, one was of chicken-pox, two of scarlet fever, one of erysipelas, and two of diphtheria. The diphtheria cases were bad ones, antitoxin was supplied at once and used freely, but the second case—a visitor in October—died.

Another year we have been fortunate in escaping small-pox, and, considering the number of visitors, I think we have great cause for thankful congratulation.

The tables of statistics sent by the Local Government Board will be found attached to this report, and the figures extend over eight years. Those for the past year will compare favourably with those of other years, for, although the death-rate is somewhat higher than that of last year, it will be found that the birth-rate is likewise higher.

In accordance with the instructions of the Local Government Board, I submit the following information:—

Physical features and general character of the District.—The district is placed on the eastern extremity of the County of Essex, the town being on a narrow neck of land connecting the portion called the Naze with the mainland; it has an eastern exposure, the soil being of heavy clay except a gravel bed of some size on Walton Hall.

House Accommodation.—During the past few years the house accommodation for the working Classes has been much improved by the building of many houses in various portions of the district; true, these houses are of a more roomy and better kind than many working men require, but, even if the rents are higher than his position demands, a good managing wife can in the season make up more than the difference from visitors. There are still some of the old cottages standing, but they diminish yearly in number. The Surveyor looks after the new buildings under the bye-laws, and the houses are examined and certified before they are permitted to be occupied. The sanitary condition of the dwellings is carefully looked after by the Inspector and myself, and whenever any dirtiness or filth is discovered, steps are at once taken to effect a remedy. The streets and roads are in much better

condition, and care is taken to keep them so ; the Parade will now be made up and put into good order, which will be of vast benefit to the town.

Sewers and Drains.—The new system of sewers is working well, but I must record that some complaints have been made as to the outfall, not so much from sewage turning up on the beach, as from the colour in the sea, and an odour, which may possibly, and in all likelihood, be due to imagination. The unfortunate explosion of the Sceptic Tank has been repaired without cost to the ratepayers, and the tank is now ventilated by a series of fresh air inlets and foul air outlets, so that an explosion is not likely to occur again. I think it might be possible to get over the cause of complaint referred to above by the carrying the outfall further out to sea.

Excrement Disposal.—This is entirely, or almost so, by water carriage ; the w.c.'s are of the modern, type with good flushes, and the Inspector gives them a good deal of attention.

Removal of House Refuse.—The houses have ash-pits, and many of them are portable iron bins, which are easily emptied, and the places in which they stand cleaned up. The removal is effected by the Council's own men weekly, and oftener in the season. No collection is permitted to remain long on the premises. I must say that I greatly prefer a morning street collection as is done in Edingburgh and other towns in Scotland, thus entirely preventing accumulations of any sort in the locality of houses. I believe this to be by far the most sanitary plan, and less costly.

Water Supply.—The water supply is obtained from the Tendring Hundred Water Company from their deep wells at Mannington and Mistley, and a large reservoir was opened last summer by Frinton Railway Station, for the supply of Frinton and Walton-on-the-Naze ; there will thus be an ample supply for all purposes, and, as a Fire Brigade has now been formed and is in working order, the town will be much better looked after in the event of a fire.

The Council have supervision over bakehouses, slaughterhouses, dairies, cowsheds, milkshops, and factories and workshops. The bakehouses are kept clean and in accordance with the law, and a very good new one has just been opened. One underground bakehouse was discovered, and, as I was of opinion that it was not a suitable place, I advised the Council not to grant the necessary certificate after the 1st of January, and the Council acted accordingly. It has thus been closed. Slaughterhouses, cowsheds, and milkshops, are periodically inspected, they are kept fairly in good cleanly order. The factories and workshops are inspected, a new factory for the

Electric Light has lately been opened by the Coast Development Company, which I believe is in accordance with the law. I have inspected several workshops in the town, but I have not seen any list of out-workers.

Nuisances.—The Inspector looks carefully after nuisances, and takes immediate steps for their removal. When he finds my help is required, he calls upon me.

Infectious Sickness.—The Infectious Diseases Notification Act has been in force in the district for years. Cases are reported by the Medical Men, and enquiries are speedily made and disinfectants supplied. A form is supplied on which the Medical Attendant certifies when he considers the house is free from infection and can be disinfected; and, on my order the Inspector thoroughly disinfects all the affected apartments with Formalin, by spray and fumigation. In all cases of diphtheria I supply antitoxin without delay, and a second supply is given when required. I would refer to the difficulty spoken of in my last year's report, of the isolation cases of infectious sickness in the Coast-Guard Quarters, and the afterwards disinfection. At Colchester, the Military Authorities have arranged with the Corporation to take all such cases into their Isolation Hospital at a fixed charge, and I believe, although your district is not provided with an Isolation Hospital, an arrangement might be made with the Authorities of an adjoining such institution, to receive the sick belonging to the Admiralty here.

I frequently make inspection of the district and very soon become aware of anything needing my attention. Regarding an Isolation Hospital, the question is a most difficult one; a small district such as yours would have difficulty in keeping such an establishment going both as to funds, and patients, hence the only practicable proposal is the combination with neighbouring districts, and this has not been favourably received by the adjoining Councils.

The following is an abstract from the the return made by the Inspector of Nuisances, of work done under his direction and knowledge:—

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Complaints received—45. | 1. Inspected premises, 15 notices were served and 30 complaints abated without notice. |
| 2. Nuisances detected without complaint—28. | |
| 3. Nuisances abated—73. | |
| 4. Notices served—15. | 4. All abated. |
| 5. Summonses taken out—0. | |
| 6. Convictions—0. | |

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| 7. Cottages inspected—84. | 7. 7 Notices served to abate nuisances. |
| 8. Lodging-houses inspected—65. | 8. 59 found satisfactory, 6 notices served for minor defects. |
| 9. Slaughterhouses inspected—2. | 9. Found satisfactory. |
| 10. Bake-houses inspected - 3. | 10. 2 found satisfactory, 1 not so. |
| 11. Dairies and Milkshops inspected—4. | 11. Satisfactory. |
| 12. Cowsheds inspected—3. | 12. Satisfactory. |
| 13. Workshops inspected—3. | 13. Satisfactory. |
| 14. Filthy houses cleansed—0. | |
| 15. Houses disinfected—14. | 15. Various causes. |
| 16. Overcrowding abated—1. | 16. Removed to larger house |
| 17. Houses placed in habitable repair—1 | 17. After notice served. |
| 18. New houses erected—31. | |
| 19. Houses closed—0. | |
| 20. Certificates for new houses granted under the byelaws - 40. | 20. All new buildings. |
| 21. Ditto referred—1. | 21. A new building. |
| 22. Improved supplies of water afforded—9. | 22. To existing buildings. |
| 23. Wells cleaned or repaired—0. | |
| 24. Wells closed—0. | |
| 25. Houses connected with sewers—151. | 25. Including old and new buildings. |
| 26. Houses connected with water-mains—45. | |
| 27. Earth, pail, or improved privies constructed or existing privies altered—5. | 27. Old w.c.'s abolished and new w.c.'s made. |
| 28. Privies & w.c.'s repaired; w.c.'s supplied with water | 28. 151 new and otherwise. |
| 29. Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered—8. | 29. Open cisterns cleansed and repaired. |
| 30. Animals improperly kept, removed—7. | 30. Swine. |
| 31. Samples of water taken for analysis—2. | 31. Satisfactory. |

I have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

JNO. W. COOK, M.D.

TABLE 1.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1903, and Previous Years in the WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE URBAN DISTRICT.

Year.	Popula- tion estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.						Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Net Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.†	Under one Year of Age.		At all Ages,								
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.†	Number.	Rate.†					
													6	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
1896	1626	35	21.52	1	28.56	32	19.68	...	6	...	26	15.99		
1897	1641	43	26.26	5	116.27	23	14.01	...	2	...	23	14.01		
1898	1649	39	23.65	5	205.12	27	16.37	...	2	...	25	15.13		
1899	1666	46	27.61	11	239.0	31	18.60	...	3	1	29	18.00		
1900	1670	32	19.16	5	156.25	30	17.96	...	2	...	28	16.16		
1901	2015	38	18.85	6	157.89	31	15.38	...	1	3	33	16.37		
1902	2029	52	25.62	5	96.15	21	10.34	...	2	...	19	9.36		
Averages for years 1896-1902.	1756	40	22.77	5	125.00	27	15.37	...	2	0	26	14.80		
1903	2061	54	26.20	3	55.55	23	11.15	...	2	4	25	12.13		

† Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The "Public institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made should be given on the back of this Table.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) } 2,051.
Total population at all ages - - - 2,015.
Number of inhabited houses - - - 443.
Average number of persons per house - - - 4.54. } At Census of 1901.

TABLE 3.

Cases of INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the year 1903, in the WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE URBAN DISTRICT.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.							Total Cases notified in each Locality,	Number of cases re-moved to Hospital from each Locality.	There is no Isolation Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards			
Diphtheria ...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	6	...	3	1	...	2	...	...	...

TABLE 4.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903, in the WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at Subjoined Ages.						Deaths in or belonging to Localities (at all Ages).	Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
Diphtheria and membranous croup	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	3	...	...	...	1	2	...	...
Pneumonia	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Premature birth	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Accidents	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Rheumatic Fever	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
All other causes	12	2	...	...	...	7	3	...
All causes	23	3	1	2	2	11	4	...

{ A Visitor from Little Clacton { 1

3

2

1

{ A Visitor from Stoke Newington & a Coast-guardsmen { 2

1

12

23